

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 21, 23, 25, 26, 33, 57-61, 63, 70-71 remain in the application. Claims 21, 23, 25, 26 have been amended. Claims 1-20, 22, 24, 27-32, 34-56, 62, 64-69 have been canceled. Claims 70-71 have been added.

**Claim Objections**

Claim 21 has been amended to correct for the insufficient antecedent basis as pointed out in the Office Action.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant thanks the examiner for indicating allowability of claims 57-61 and 63. Applicant also thanks the examiner for indicating allowability of claims 24 and 32 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicant has incorporated the limitations of objected to claim 24 and intervening claim 22 into independent claim 21. Furthermore, Applicant has added claims 70-71 which have incorporated the limitations of independent claim 21 and also the limitations of objected to claim 32 and intervening claim 27.

Furthermore, in response to Advisory Action mailed on 6/20/2006, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant believed new claim 70 fully and properly incorporated the limitations of independent claim 21 and also the limitations of objected to claim 32 and intervening claim 27, as "the connection configurations" in claim 70 line 12 inherently referred to a "first connection configuration" and a "second connection configuration"; and in claim 70 line 13, "said sets of channels" inherently referred to a "first set of channels" and a "second set of channels". Applicant respectfully apologizes for the inconvenience this caused and has accordingly made the necessary adjustments to new claim 70 to alleviate the confusion.

**35 U.S.C 103(a) Rejections**

Claims 1-8, 17-23, 25-31, 33-56 and 64-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogura (US 5517489A) ("Ogura") in view of Kawaguchi (US 6977889B1).

Claims 9-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogura in view of Wellbaum (US 7016357B1) ("Wellbaum").

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hermann (US 6606667) in view of Kawaguchi.

Claims 1-5, 7, 17-23, 25-31, 33-34, 43, 46-48, 50, 52-61, 63-66, 68-69 are being rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takatori et al. (US 5600631) in view of Kawaguchi.

Claims 6-9, 11-16, 42, 44 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takatori in view of Kawaguchi and further in view of Lu (US 5815490).

While Applicant may disagree with the above cited rejections, Applicant has amended the claims (not by way of agreeing with the rejections, but by way of allowing the application to issue with the intention of considering seeking the existing independent claims in a continuation).

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome by the remarks, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

*Invitation for a telephone interview*

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 408-720-8300 if there remains any issue with allowance of this case.

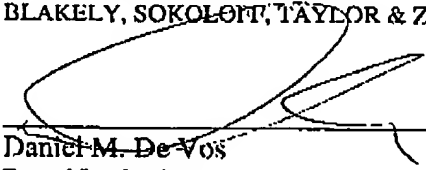
*Charge our Deposit Account*

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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